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Summary record of the 73rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 30 May 2000, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

Contents

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (*continued*)

Agenda item 166: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*)

Agenda item 173: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (*continued*)

Agenda item 175: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*)

Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (*continued*) (A/54/851, A/54/857 and A/54/865)

Agenda item 166: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/54/807 and A/54/842)

Agenda item 173: Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (*continued*) (A/54/769/Add.1 and A/54/875)

Agenda item 175: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/54/872)

1. **Mr. Fox** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, supported the approach recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 8 of its report on the financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) (A/54/875). Progress in recruiting staff for UNTAET, local staff in particular, and the high vacancy rate for civilian police continued to give rise to concern. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had requested the Secretariat to explore alternatives for meeting the increasing demand for civilian police personnel. He took note of the efforts of the Secretariat, in particular the Civilian Police Unit, to improve the selection and availability of such personnel through the selection assistance team mechanism and in that context supported the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for an examination of the organizational arrangements, role and capacity of the Civilian Police Unit.

2. As at 30 April 2000, only 37 per cent of the previous assessment for UNTAET had been paid. Australia, New Zealand and Canada had paid all outstanding assessments, and they urged other Members to do likewise.

3. **Mr. Mabilangan** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN wished to reiterate the importance it attached to ensuring that adequate funds were made available to UNTAET. It noted that as at 30 April 2000 unpaid assessments amounted to $217.2 million, and it hoped that the next scheduled payment of troop reimbursements would not be delayed. All Member States must pay their assessed contributions without further delay.

4. ASEAN noted that the proposed budget of UNTAET for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 had been prepared on the basis of the requirements of the Mission for the current financial period and calculated on the basis of 8,604 troops. In that regard, it recalled the earlier recommendation of the Advisory Committee that, when submitting the requirements for 2000-2001, the results of the review referred to in paragraph 28 of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council (S/2000/53) should be taken into account. The comprehensive review of UNTAET requirements, including the size of the military component, was expected to be finalized by late June 2000.

5. Pending the submission of a revised budget, ASEAN concurred with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary-General should be granted, as an interim measure, a commitment authority in the amount of $292,069,000 gross ($283,688,500 net), and that an amount of $200 million should be assessed. In conclusion, ASEAN emphasized the need for the Committee to take an early decision on the financing of UNTAET.

6. **Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo** (Uganda) said that the Government of Uganda was totally committed to the full implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement and the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It had hoped that, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 54/260, immediate steps would be taken to begin deployment of military personnel, including up to 500 military observers, as part of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). It was concerned at the delay in deployment and at the number of conditions imposed before the forces could be deployed. For similar missions, where the situation had been more fluid than it was in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, no conditions had been imposed, and every effort had been made to deploy forces without delay. His delegation reiterated the concern expressed by the General Assembly that the Secretary-General was not provided with adequate resources to deploy some recent peacekeeping missions, particularly in Africa. All missions, whether

existing missions or future ones, must be given equal treatment in respect of financial, deployment and administrative arrangements.

7. The people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been waiting for United Nations Mission personnel to take control and return their country to peace. In a similar situation, indecisiveness and failure to intervene in Rwanda had led to the massacre of millions, a situation which must not be repeated in the Congo. If the international community had taken immediate steps to deploy troops following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 54/260, the recent incident in Kisangani could have been avoided. Recent actions in Sierra Leone had demonstrated the effectiveness of a small but well-trained and well-equipped peacekeeping force.

8. His delegation had hoped that the preliminary expenditure report for MONUC would cover resources not only for military observers and civilian support staff but for military personnel as well. In that regard, his delegation would be willing to support paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/54/872 if the following additional language was added: "To note that by 30 June 2000 only 500 United Nations military observers and 100 civilian support staff out of up to 5,537 military personnel, including up to 500 military observers authorized by Security Council resolution 1291 (2000), will have been deployed to the Mission."

9. **Mr. Yussuf** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the statement of the representative of Uganda.

Organization of work

10. **Mr. Nakkar** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had noted that discussion of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) had not been included in the current programme of work, even though the Committee must take a decision on the matter at the current session.

11. **The Chairman** said that consultations were ongoing between the coordinator for the item and key delegations; a progress report was expected in the near future.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.